

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2004
2:00 p.m. – 433 Blatt Building

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Williams

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the March 18 and April 16 meetings were approved as distributed.
- III. **Remarks from a Key Constituency:** Dr. James R. Couch, Director of Career and Technology Education, provided information on two programs: Project Lead the Way and High Schools That Work. (Handouts of the power points are available). Project Lead the Way is a collaboration among BellSouth, the University of South Carolina, the State Department of Education and school districts to emphasize math and science in pre-engineering curricula. The projects assist teachers in the delivery of integrated instruction that addresses the pre-engineering concepts. The project includes culminating experiences in which students apply their learning. The Lego League competition is held for middle school teams. In this competition middle school student teams build a robot with Legos, defend their design to a panel of USC graduate students, and compete for honors. At the high school level, the robotics competition is the culminating experience. South Carolina is host to the southeastern region (15 states). Five South Carolina teams competed at the national level.

High Schools That Work (HSTW) is a school wide curricular approach advocated by the Southern Regional Education Board. The program emphasizes selection of more rigorous programs of study, linking the programs of study so that students “major” in an area and providing support for all students to achieve at high levels. Dr. Couch shared data on the performance of the 70 South Carolina high schools with HSTW programs and the 30 middle schools with pre-HSTW programs. The programs are to be expanded next year with a \$500,000 increase in state funding.

- IV. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments** - no report
 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the Conference Report to the General Appropriations bill and the funding of EAA and EIA programs as well as provisos.
 - C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She used a power point presentation to summarize the analysis of parent involvement data across the state.
 - D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin deferred his report until the end of the meeting.

- E. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Putting Parents in Charge Act: Mr. Staton indicated that the ad hoc subcommittee had met once and heard from representatives of the Governor's office and the SC Policy Council. The Subcommittee is to meet again when a report from the SCSBA is ready.

On behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee Mr. Martin requested that the EOC go into Executive Session.

The EOC met in Executive Session.

The EOC returned from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that the EOC extend the contract with cnsq.llc for another year. The EOC approved the extension.

The EOC adjourned at 3:20 p.m.